

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A key unit used in a mobile device such as a portable telephone in which a large number of key tops are disposed on a key pad of a substantially sheet shape made of a silicone rubber or a soft thermoplastic elastomer, characterized in that at least one of the key tops has a structure in which a top face and/or a side face except a bottom face of a main body made of a transparent hard resin is covered with a metallic film formed by plating, and a pattern of a character, a symbol or the like is formed by irradiating the key top with a laser light, and then removing a surface portion only of the metallic film at an irradiated portion to constitute a plane aggregation of a large number of very small recessed points.
2. The key unit according to claim 1, characterized in that as the laser light, there is used one of a laser light having a wavelength of 532 nm obtained by taking out a second harmonics of Nd:YAG laser, a laser light having a wavelength of 355 nm obtained by taking out a third harmonics of the laser, a laser light of a YAG laser having a wavelength of 1064 nm and a convergence diameter of 30  $\mu$ m or less to the irradiated portion, and an excimer laser light having a wavelength of 180 nm and a convergence diameter at molecular level.
3. A marking method to a key top which comprises irradiating, with a laser light, a metallic film formed by plating on a key top surface in a key unit used in a mobile

device such as a portable telephone in which a large number of key tops are disposed on a key pad of a substantially sheet shape made of a silicone rubber or a soft thermoplastic elastomer, to remove a surface portion only of the metallic film at an irradiated portion and to constitute a plane aggregation of a large number of very small recessed points, thereby forming a pattern of a character, a symbol or the like, characterized in that the laser light has a wavelength of 1100 nm or less.

4. The key unit according to claim 3, characterized in that as the laser light, there is used one of a laser light having a wavelength of 532 nm obtained by taking out a second harmonics of Nd:YAG laser, a laser light having a wavelength of 355 nm obtained by taking out a third harmonics of the laser, a YAG laser light having a wavelength of 1064 nm and a convergence diameter of 10 to 30  $\mu$ m to the irradiated portion, and an excimer laser light having a wavelength of 180 nm and a convergence diameter at molecular level.

5. A manufacturing method of a key unit, characterized in that unmarked key tops including a key top having a metallic film are combined with a key unit; the manufacture is temporarily stopped in a state wherein all other steps except marking to the key tops have been completed; the stopping is kept until contents of a character, a symbol or the like necessary for the product are decided; and then marking of the character, the symbols

or the like is performed by the marking method according to any of claim 3 to complete the key unit.